

# FRONTIERS

---

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE  
FALL/WINTER 2016

[SMCSC.EDU/FRONTIERS](http://SMCSC.EDU/FRONTIERS)



The Inauguration of  
**W. SCOTT  
COCHRAN**

---

SMC'S EIGHTH PRESIDENT

## ■ president's message



I hope you've enjoyed the fall season as much as I have. This was my first opportunity to welcome students back to campus after the summer break, and I enjoyed every moment of seeing the college come back to life again. Summers at SMC are far from quiet—staff and faculty take the opportunity to prepare for the coming academic year, and this summer especially brought a number of physical changes to the campus—but there's an energy that accompanies the influx of students to campus that I always find revitalizing.

I also had the enormous pleasure of being officially installed as SMC's eighth president in early November. An inauguration is always an important milestone in the life of any college, but for me, personally, it was an opportunity to take stock of what, by the time this magazine is in our reader's hands, will be the anniversary of my first full year in office.

I look back on the last 12 months with utter astonishment at what our faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors and trustees have achieved. Among many other activities, our faculty have won awards, worked with students to conduct original research and developed innovative teaching methods. Our students and coaches took nearly every athletic team to district and national championships in the spring, and many students participated in internships over the summer. The selfless efforts of donors and trustees resulted in three beautiful and much-needed new spaces on campus. And our alumni, as always, represent the best of SMC in their work and service to their communities, as well as their efforts to stay loyally connected and engaged with the campus at events here and across the state.

As you can imagine, I spend a lot of time out and about on campus. Everywhere I look, I see a thriving, close-knit community where students are supported in reaching their goals and where faculty and staff work incredibly hard to provide an outstanding living and learning environment.

I'm excited to continue moving forward with this talented group of people and young adults, and I hope you'll continue on the journey with us by supporting SMC when, where and how you see fit.

**ALL THE BEST,**

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "S" and a trailing flourish.

# FRONTIERS

A PUBLICATION OF SPARTANBURG  
METHODIST COLLEGE

Fall/Winter 2016

[smcsc.edu/frontiers](http://smcsc.edu/frontiers)

## EDITOR

Lisa Mincey Ware

## DESIGNER

van der Sterre Design

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Baker Maultsby  
Stacey Majkrzak  
Lisa Mincey Ware

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Teresa Cochran  
Carroll Foster  
Trenton Brock  
Christopher Simmons '18

Frontiers is published annually  
for alumni and friends of  
the college by:

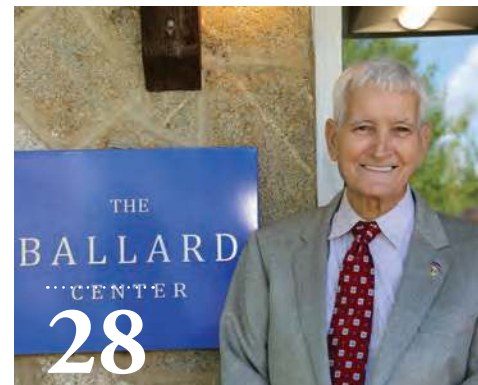
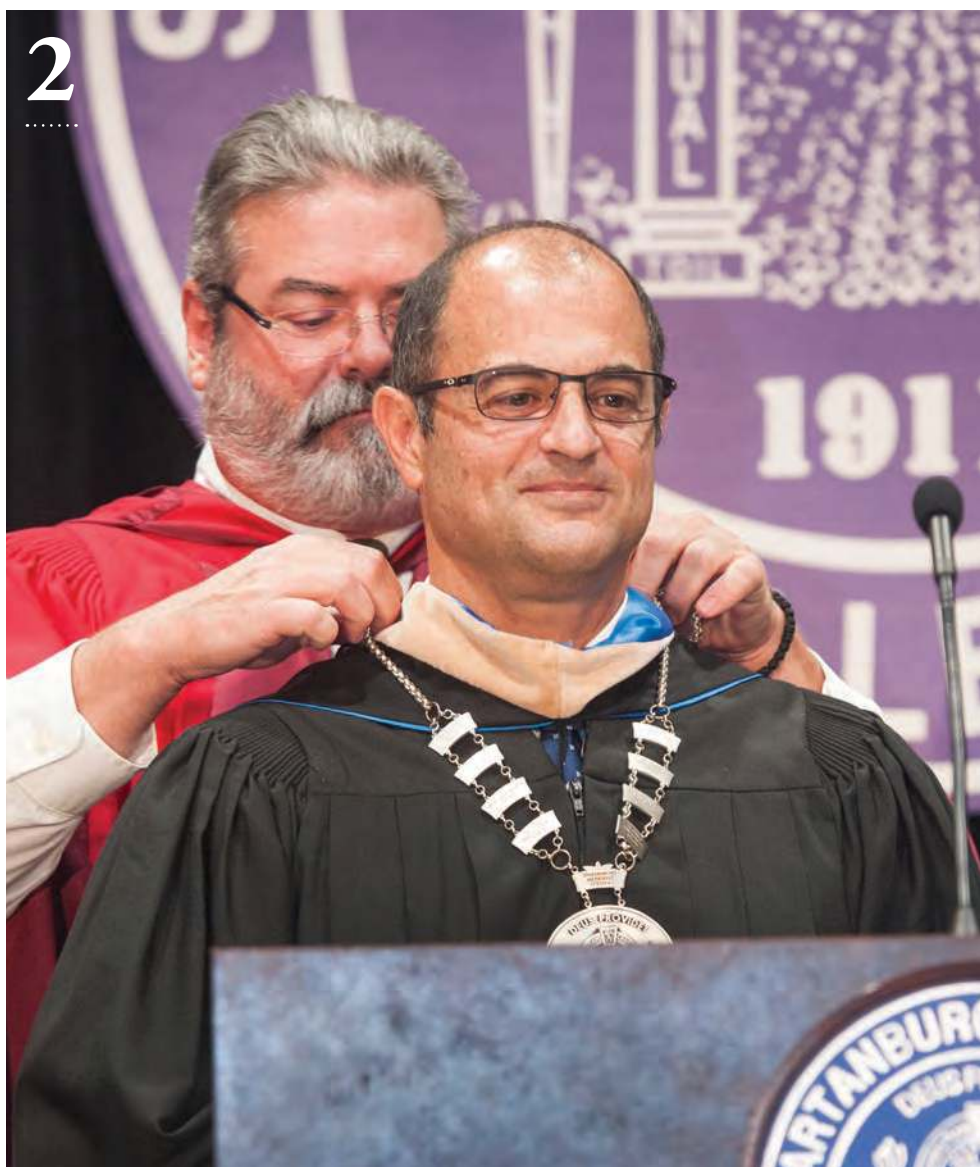
The Marketing Office  
Spartanburg Methodist College  
1000 Powell Mill Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29301  
Email us: [frontiers@smcsc.edu](mailto:frontiers@smcsc.edu)

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
Spartanburg Methodist College  
1000 Powell Mill Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29301  
[snowb@smcsc.edu](mailto:snowb@smcsc.edu)  
864-597-4000 | fax 864-587-4355

2

## FEATURES

- 2 The Inauguration of  
W. Scott Cochran
- 10 Bringing Music to Life  
in the Classroom
- 16 Solar Cells and  
Scottish Culture
- 20 A Culture of  
Commitment
- 24 Work It! Summer  
Internships
- 28 Uncommon Strength,  
Enduring Love
- 34 Professional  
Development Seminar
- ////////////////////
- 8 New Faculty
- 14 Trustee Spotlight:  
James Fletcher  
Thompson
- 15 Faculty News
- 27 College News
- 40 Alumni Spotlight
- 44 A Lasting Impression
- 46 Alumni Events
- 48 In Memoriam
- 48 Class Notes







# *The* INAUGURATION *of* W. SCOTT COCHRAN

BY LISA MINCEY WARE

**O**n Friday, November 4, the SMC community celebrated a new chapter in its history with the inauguration of W. Scott Cochran, the college's eighth president since its founding in 1911. The inauguration took place in Bridges Arena and was attended by current and past members of the college's Board of Trustees, delegates from other colleges and universities across the country, faculty, staff, students and special guests – including President Cochran's parents and six children.

Additional inauguration festivities included a donor dinner held on Thursday, November 3, and a bonfire party for students later that same evening. A lunch was held on the Ellis Hall lawn immediately following Friday's inauguration ceremony.

President Cochran was chosen by the college's Board of Trustees after a nine-month national search that resulted in a pool of highly competitive candidates. He began serving the college in his new role November 16, 2015.



Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher, Past Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, officially installed President Cochran as President during the ceremony.

The college has installed three presidents since being renamed from Spartanburg Junior College in 1974, all of whom served with energy, vision and

“*I’m THRILLED by  
our CHOICE and  
EXCITED for the  
FUTURE of SMC.*”

—DR. PHINNIZE J. FISHER

dedication: Dr. George DeWitt Fields, who served from 1976 to 1997; Dr. Charles Porter Teague, who served from 1997 to 2009; and Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, who served from 2009 to 2015.

Spartanburg Methodist College was founded as Textile Industrial Institute (TII) by Dr. David English Camak, a visionary Methodist minister. As a work-study cooperative, TII served young adults working in area textile mills by offering high school-level courses in preparation for advanced education or employment. In this first cooperative education program in the country, students worked for a week and then took classes for a week. In 1927, college-level courses were added to the curriculum and, in 1942, the college was renamed

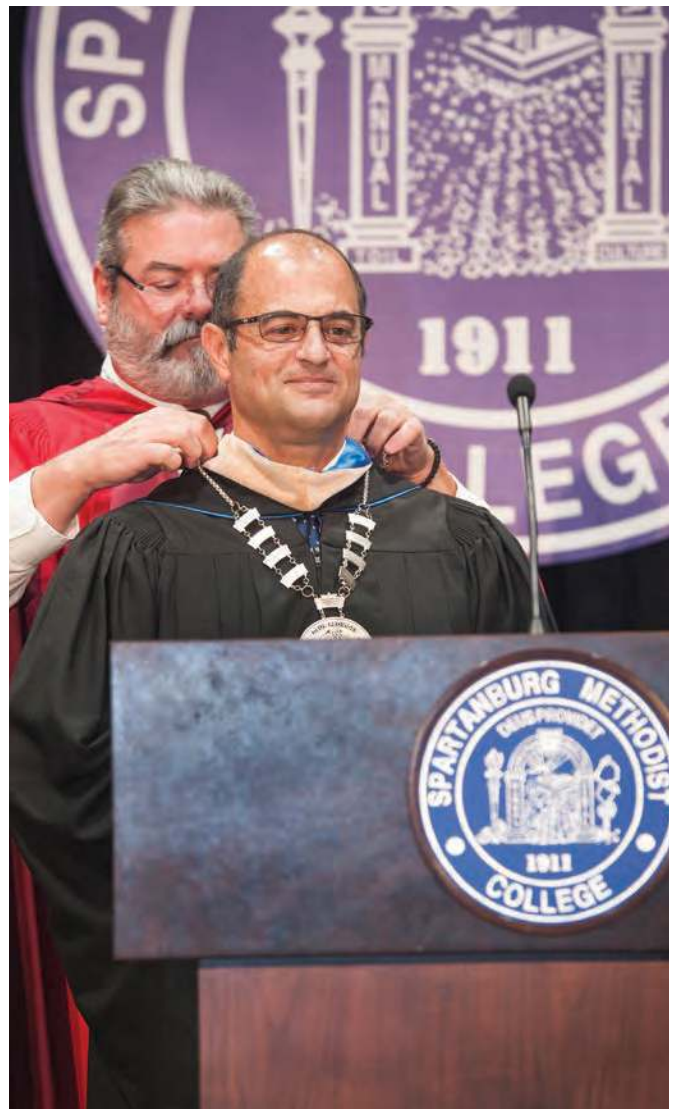
President Cochran embraces his son, Kyle Cochran, who introduced his father to the ceremony attendees.

Spartanburg Junior College. Today, it continues to offer students a strong foundational education in the liberal arts, granting six associate degrees in arts, fine arts, business, criminal justice, religion and science.

"I am very pleased with the direction the college has taken since Scott began leading it," says Dr. Fisher. "We knew when we brought him on board that he valued Spartanburg Methodist College's rich history and mission, but also that he had the energy and creativity to expand upon the good work done by those who led before him. I'm thrilled by our choice and excited for the future of SMC."

Since his arrival on campus, President Cochran has explored new ways to fulfill the mission of Spartanburg Methodist College. The Professional Development Program has been established to assist students in preparing to be successful in their future career endeavors. The program, housed in

Dr. Mark Gibbs, Dean of Instruction and Faculty Marshall, presents President Cochran with the college's Medallion.





President and Mrs. Cochran with former SMC President Dr. George D. Fields after the inauguration ceremony.

the new Ballard Center, reflects the original mission of TII. In December, the college's first winter term will be offered, consisting of online courses to help students at SMC and other colleges take classes they need to stay on track for graduation. A ten-year master plan for campus facilities was recently completed and includes new facilities to improve upon and maximize the use of the college's 110-acre campus.

President Cochran has also been instrumental in the exploration of new and in-demand academic programs to be offered beginning in

2018. And students who prefer to stay at SMC while continuing their bachelor's degree online may now do so through partnerships established with Palmetto College and The Medical University of South Carolina.

"SMC will continue its mission of preparing students for what comes next, whether that's a senior college experience here or elsewhere or immediately entering the workplace, and I look forward to continuing to work with our outstanding faculty and staff to deliver the kind of personalized education experience that only small liberal arts colleges can provide,"

President Cochran said. "I'm excited to build upon a history of giving students the opportunity to find their path and to succeed in life, and I look forward to seeing SMC thrive in the coming years."

"Scott brings to the SMC Presidency enthusiasm, drive and heart," says James Fletcher Thompson, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Our college's mission is unique, and we have found an equally rare leader. Our future looks bright indeed."



**To see photos from the Inauguration Ceremony, Donor Dinner and Student Bonfire, like our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/spartanburgmethodistcollege](http://www.facebook.com/spartanburgmethodistcollege).**



# PUT A LITTLE SOMETHING UNDER SMC'S TREE

Your tax-deductible gift to the Annual Fund helps the college where the need and impact are greatest.



## **STUDENT SUPPORT**

Scholarship support provided by the Annual Fund helps close the gap between talented students and financial need.



## **ACADEMIC RESOURCES**

Classroom technology and library resources support our academic mission for every student.



## **STRENGTH + FLEXIBILITY**

Unrestricted, current-use funds serve as a bridge between long-term goals and the immediate, pressing needs of today.



## **THE IDEAL BALANCE**

Gifts to the Annual Fund fuel programs that allow SMC to strike a balance between academics, support and extracurricular opportunities.



**TO MAKE A GIFT, POSTMARK THE ENCLOSED GIFT ENVELOPE BY  
DECEMBER 31 OR GO ONLINE TO [SMCSC.EDU/ONLINE-GIVING](https://smcsc.edu/online-giving).**



## This fall, SMC welcomed six new faculty, all of whom hold a Ph.D. or terminal degree in their fields.



**Dr. Michael Burriss,  
Professor of Spanish**

Burriss received his Ph.D. in Spanish literature from the University of Georgia in 2013. He completed an M.A. in Spanish at Auburn University in 2008 and a B.A. in Spanish at Erskine College in 2006.



**Dr. Jill Coyle,  
Professor of English**

Coyle served the college as a Visiting Professor from 2014-2015 and as an adjunct member of the faculty in 2016. She received a doctorate in classical studies from Duke University in 2002, an M.A. in British and American literature from North Carolina State University in 2013 and a B.A. in classics from the College of the Holy Cross in 1996.



**Dr. Brian Dunn,  
Professor of Biology**

Dunn is new to SMC, having previously served as a lecturer in biology at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He earned his Ph.D. in cell biology at Yale and his B.S. degree in biology from Wheaton College.



### **Dr. Kirk Hansen, Professor of History**

Hansen was appointed Professor of History after serving as an Adjunct Professor since January 2016. He completed his Ph.D. in history at the University of Dundee in Scotland in 2015, and he earned his M.A. (2009) and B.A. (2007) in history from Bob Jones University.



### **Kris Neely, Professor of Art**

Before coming to SMC, Neely served as Dean, Assistant Professor and coordinator for studio art at Wofford College. Neely received an M.F.A. from Goddard College in 2009 and a B.A. in religion from Wofford College in 2002.



### **Dr. Adam Siegfried, Professor of Chemistry**

Siegfried served the college as an Adjunct Professor of Chemistry since 2015. He received a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry in May 2016, an M.S. in inorganic chemistry from Clemson University in 2008 and a B.S. in chemistry from Coker College in 2002.

A hand is shown writing musical notation on a staff. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text 'BRINGING MUSIC TO LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the upper half of the image.

# BRINGING MUSIC TO LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM

BY STACEY MAJKRZAK

---

**DR. LANNY LANFORD  
HOLDS A B.A. (WITH A  
CHORAL EMPHASIS)  
FROM THE UNIVERSITY  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
A MASTER OF CHURCH  
MUSIC DEGREE  
IN THEORY AND  
COMPOSITION FROM  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
IN LOUISVILLE,  
KENTUCKY, AND A  
DOCTOR OF MUSICAL  
ARTS DEGREE FROM THE  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH  
CAROLINA.**

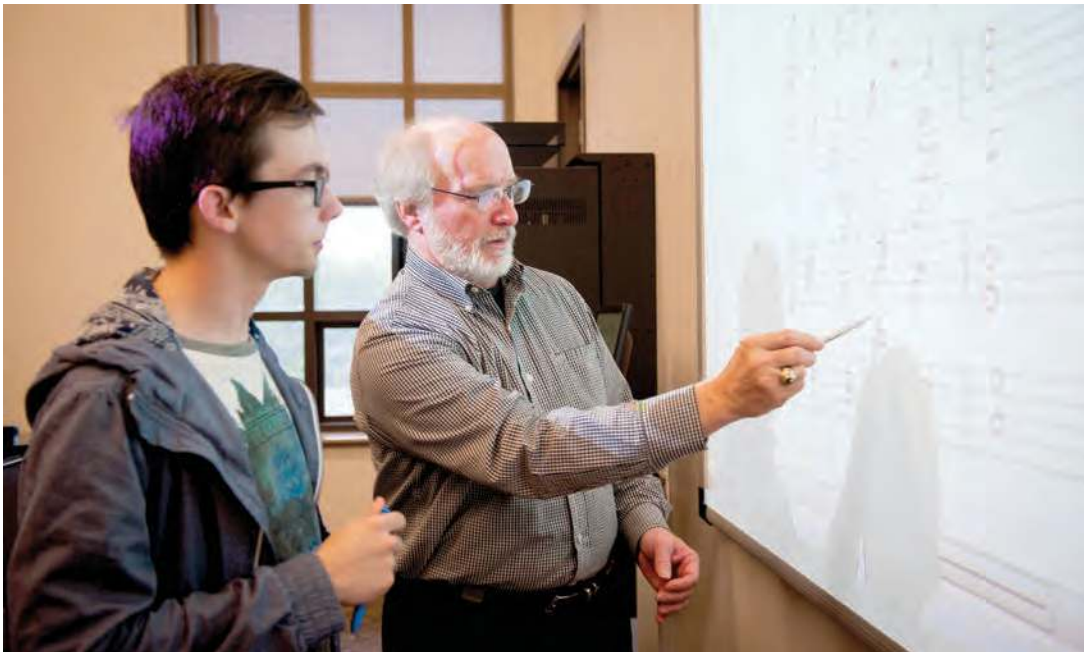
**WHEN VISITING** with Dr. Lanny Lanford, professor and director of Spartanburg Methodist College's Music Department, you immediately get the feeling that he loves what he does. As a composer, playwright and professor, Dr. Lanford is most certainly accomplished and a star in his own right. He wrote and scored the 1980 revision of "Mr. Scrooge!", the Charles Dickens holiday favorite, which has run in theaters, schools and churches for 36 years.

Dr. Lanford's work is recognized worldwide, and he won the International Composition Completion Award for his piece "Les Chevaliers du Tastevin." He wrote, performed and recorded the original score for the feature film *More Than Diamonds* and composed for the films *PREVENT: Standoff Against Time* and *The Z Line*.

In addition to his accomplishments, Dr. Lanford has dreamed of a way to write, compose and teach music in a less tedious fashion. After 30 years, he is seeing (and hearing) that dream come true.

Last spring, Dr. Lanford was discussing projects with David William Hearne, a world-renowned English composer and music producer working in London. Hearne has composed music for television shows including *Friday Night Lights*, *Dancing On Ice*, *American Idol* and *The Voice*. He and a business partner created StaffPad, an innovative music notation application that has handwriting recognition to allow composers to work as if they were writing on paper. Using a digital pen, composers write on the screen, and StaffPad converts the handwritten notes into music that can be played back immediately. With full orchestral or single instrumental





Dr. Lanford writes notes on an electronic smart board with student Chase Horne '16 – the software plays the music as they write it.

playback capabilities, composers eliminate countless prerecording hours.

Dr. Lanford has been testing the application for Hearne, and as he was using it an idea surfaced. Although the application was developed with composers in mind, Dr.

a way to have StaffPad projected on the classroom smart board. By simply using an HDMI cord or Bluetooth, the program was up and running for his class to see and hear.

“Wide-eyed wonder is really the only way to describe their reaction to what I was

**“WE CAN GO FURTHER, DIVE DEEPER INTO FINE POINTS OF MUSIC THEORY AND MAKE A REAL, LEGITIMATE PIECE OF MUSIC IN THE CLASSROOM.”**

Lanford wondered about using it to teach music theory classes. “As I was in class one day watching the students write their assignments on paper, it suddenly dawned on me what StaffPad could do for education,” Lanford recalled. “I emailed Hearne and asked him about utilizing the software in classrooms,” Lanford said. “He didn’t quite get it until he emailed me a little later and said, ‘This is a big deal!’”

It was then that Dr. Lanford asked Trey Arrington, SMC’s IT director, if there was

showing them,” Lanford said. “Trey’s commitment to bringing this technology into the classroom was amazing, and he really helped bring the idea to life.”

For years, Dr. Lanford used his Yamaha Clavinova CVT201, which has studio multitrack capabilities, to compose music. He would write the music on staff paper, then play on the keyboard, erase and write again. This process can take close to a year to produce one score. With StaffPad, Dr. Lanford wrote scores for two independent films in

**In April, Dr. Lanford demonstrated his software to reporter Mike McCormick of WYFF, Spartanburg's NBC-affiliated television station. You can watch the segment and see/hear Dr. Lanford's software at work by visiting the SMC Music Department webpage at [smcsc.edu/music-at-smc](http://smcsc.edu/music-at-smc).**

just three months, compared to the nine months it took him to write the score for *More Than Diamonds*.

"This software has sped up the process of composition exponentially," said Lanford. "We can go further, dive deeper into fine points of music theory and make a real, legitimate piece of music in the classroom."

Realizing that he was going to be able to use StaffPad in his classroom, he began preparing for what he'd always wanted to do. "I spent the summer rewriting all four syllabi for the year," Dr. Lanford said. "We are able to spend more time on the music and arrive at conclusions quicker than we ever could. We can accomplish so much more. This is what I have always wanted to be able to provide to my students."

Dr. Lanford's hope is to get the software in the hands of all of his students so they can explore music more deeply outside of the classroom. Until then, he continues to use it to teach and compose. This summer, Dr. Lanford used StaffPad to recompose his "Mr. Scrooge!" holiday musical with full orchestration. The new score will be ready for the 2016 holiday season performances. "What I heard in my head 36 years ago is finally becoming reality," he said.



Dr. Lanford (left) shows WYFF News reporter Mike McCormick how he controls the software from a tablet computer.



# JAMES FLETCHER THOMPSON

## CHAIR, SMC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BY BAKER MAULTSBY

**WHEN SPARTANBURG METHODIST** College board of trustees chairman James Fletcher Thompson says the college “figures prominently in my family’s history,” he’s offering up something of an understatement.

His connections to Spartanburg Methodist College run quite deep. His parents met at the college, and their experiences reflect the fascinating history and unique mission of the institution.

His father, Fletcher, was in the last graduating class of the Textile Industrial Institute (TII). He was from Virginia, where one of his high school teachers learned about a program at TII for students to work part-time in a textile mill while going to school. Fletcher seized the opportunity.

In 1942, TII became Spartanburg Junior College. That was the year Thompson’s mother graduated.

After finishing SMC, Fletcher Thompson went to work at the FBI, continued his training and education, and rose to the rank of assistant director for the agency before retiring in 1975. James Barrett, then president of SMC, invited Thompson to return to his alma mater to teach criminal justice.

The Thompson family settled in Spartanburg, where Fletcher also started the law firm that son Jim now leads.

Jim Thompson attended Vanderbilt University, but his family’s past binds him to SMC. And as a trustee, he’s committed to – and excited about – the college’s future.

He believes the goal to increase enrollment to about 1,000 students is both important and attainable. “What we realize is that socially and educationally, we need a critical mass for the vibrant environment we’re looking for,” he said.

He adds, “SMC is a great fit for a lot of students. They just need to hear about us.” Pointing to the paucity of private two-year colleges in the region, Thompson says, “Higher education is a competitive business, but SMC has a unique role and mission, and it’s a unique student we are reaching out to.”

Thompson, whose work as an adoption attorney is widely respected, believes president Scott Cochran is the right leader to take SMC to new heights. “He embodies the drive and determination and energy that we need.”

The Board of Trustees, Thompson says, has an important role in providing a combination of direction and support for the administration. And while he’s confident in the college’s growth plan, he stresses that SMC will not lose the essential qualities that make it a special place.

The college will continue to have a vital relationship with the United Methodist Church. It will continue to foster a tight-knit campus community. It will continue to seek young people – including many first-generation college students – who look to thrive in small classes and strong relationships with faculty members.

“At a large state school, it’s easy to get swallowed up,” Thompson says. “If you take a student who is ready to allow SMC to be that place to make the transition – and we have good arrangements with four-year colleges with the knowledge that we have good faculty-student relationships – it can be a great fit.”



## ***Dr. David Gibson*** becomes two-time North American Scrabble Champion

In August, Dr. David Gibson, Professor of Math, won his second North American Scrabble Championship, besting 400 players over five days in 31 rounds.

The tournament, held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, required players to compete in seven 25-minute games each day.

Gibson, who has taught math at SMC for the last 41 years, practiced daily for the event with his wife Nancy.

“Without her, I would be nowhere near the player I have become,” he said. “She not only puts up with my Scrabble addiction, but as a word person herself, she helps and encourages me in it.”

Gibson played his first tournament in 1983 and won his first championship in 1994.

“People think Scrabble is a word game, which it is, but it’s more of a math game. It’s analytical skills and thinking about different moves and outcomes and scoring possibilities,” he said.

Gibson, 65, plans to compete in next year’s North American Championship in New Orleans.



## **Dr. Litasha Dennis awarded the Archie Vernon and Margaret Wannamaker Huff Faculty Award**

Dr. Litasha Dennis, Professor of English, is the 2016 recipient of the Archie Vernon and Margaret Wannamaker Huff Faculty Award. The award is given to a Spartanburg Methodist College faculty member who exemplifies outstanding professional qualifications and teaching ability. Dr. Dennis was presented with the award during the college’s commencement exercises on Saturday, May 7. The Huff Award includes an \$800 stipend for further study, travel for professional purposes or to defray the cost of publication expenses for scholarly work.



## **Dr. Mark Holycross receives the 2016 SCICU Excellence in Teaching Award**

In April, Dr. Mark Holycross, Professor of Physical Science and Physics, was honored with the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award at a reception and dinner April 12. The Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes dedicated and committed faculty from 20 SCICU member institutions who work one on one with students whom they also serve as advisers, mentors and friends and includes a \$3,000 professional development grant.



## **Dr. Jonathan Keisler named GBHEM Exemplary Teacher; wins Founder’s Day Faculty Award**

Dr. Jonathan Keisler, Professor of Economics, was selected as an Exemplary Teacher by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church in May. Winners exemplify excellence in teaching, civility and concern for students and colleagues, commitment to value-centered education and service to students, the institution and the community. Winners receive a \$500 stipend. In October, Dr. Keisler was also selected by the SMC student body as the Founder’s Day Faculty Award winner.

# SOLAR CELLS + SCOTTISH CULTURE

Faculty/Student Teams Spend  
Summer Conducting Research

BY STACEY MAJKRZAK



## OVER THE SUMMER

two separate teams of SMC faculty and students participated in grant-funded research projects.

Adam Siegfried, Professor of Chemistry, along with sophomores Bret McAbee and Austin Miller, won a \$5,000 Furman University Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program grant to study how solar cells can be improved and used to convert sunlight into electricity. Their research, conducted primarily at Furman, began after the students' graduation from SMC in May and ended in late July.

Dr. Cole Check, Professor of History, and sophomore Emily Edmonds secured an \$800 SCICU (South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities) research grant to cover the cost of travel associated with conducting original historical research.

### Speeding Up Solar Cells

Siegfried's team set out to increase the efficiency (or energy output) of solar cells by speeding up the movement of iodine atoms within the cells (a phenomenon known as "iodine hopping"), or slowing or stopping movement of fluorescent molecules in the cell's electrolyte fluid.

Miller focused on building a completely new iodine crystal in the lab. If the new microscopic crystals increased the rate of iodine hopping, the cells would

produce more energy – an innovation that could help bring better solar cells to the energy market.

"We were able to see the iodine-containing molecules using the X-ray diffractometer at Clemson University," said Miller. "The imaging shows the three-dimensional structure of the molecules. From this structure we can predict properties and its potential usefulness in dye-sensitized solar cells."

McAbee's project focused on trying to cause a fluorescent molecule to become motionless instead of constantly moving. The constant movement gives off heat, but if the molecule were stopped, it would give off light instead. These "lit" molecules could then be used to identify possibly poisonous, colorless substances (such as fluorine, bromine and iodine) in everyday consumer items.

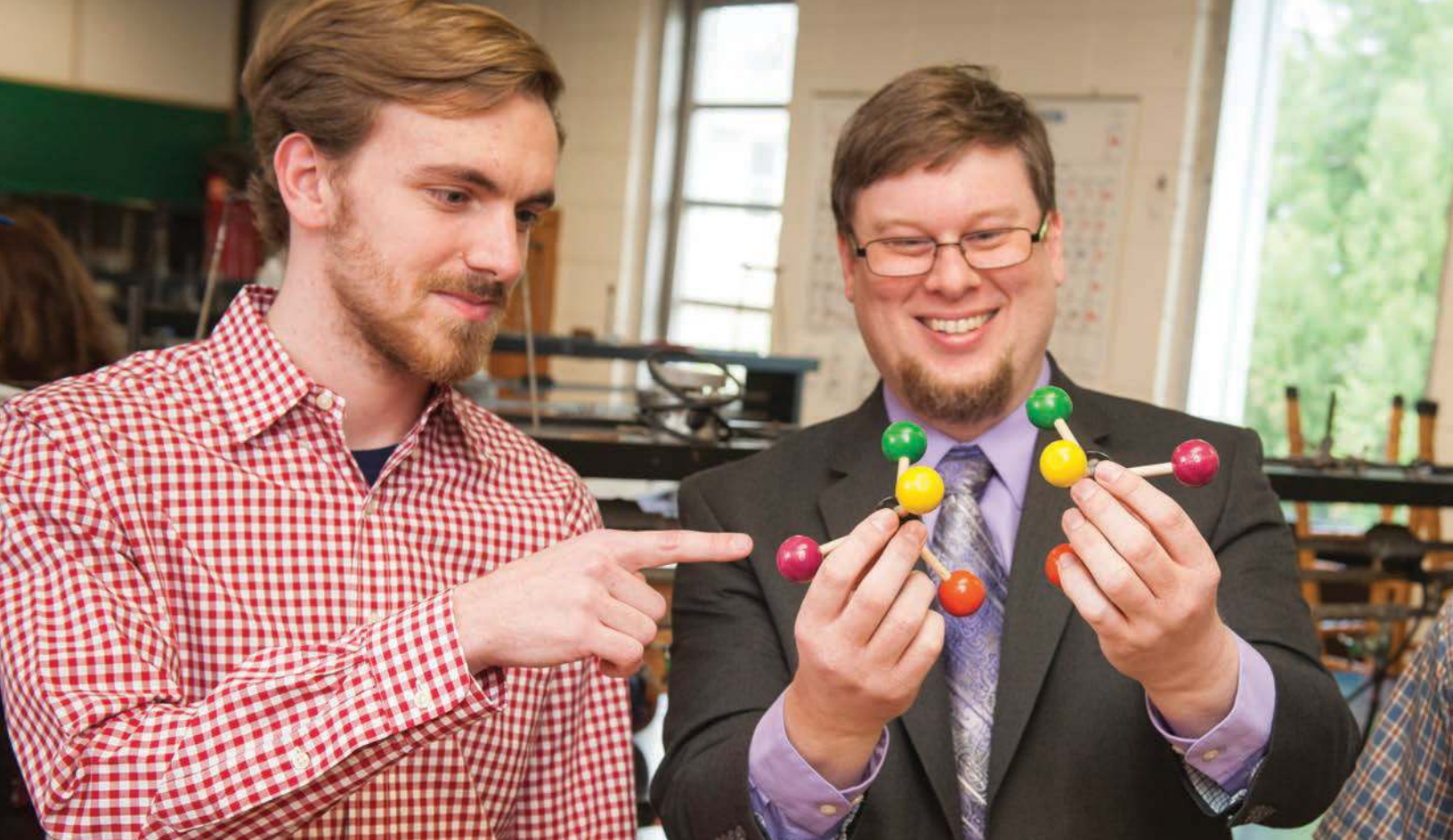
"I was able to successfully make part of the molecules for the project, but it needs more time to work out the final synthetic steps," said McAbee. "The summer was successful in that the project started off well. The final reactions are difficult and require further study for them to be successful, so it's a work in progress."

Professor Siegfried supervised the research, which will be published in the spring.

"Bret and Austin were great," said Siegfried. "They were motivated and interested in the work. They had



Austin Miller '16 works with the Rigaku MiniFlex II powder diffractometer in the Geology Department at Furman University.



a genuine curiosity, and they learned a lot of new things.”

For Miller and McAbee, the research was also an eye-opening introduction to the world of scientific research as a potential career field.

“This experience gave me more confidence in my academic future by giving me experience I need to be successful,” said Miller. “It also allowed me to appreciate chemistry on a much higher level while also exposing me to the many outlets a career in chemistry can have.”

McAbee, who began the project planning to become a medical doctor or researcher, had a real-life realization that he couldn’t ignore. “It made me realize I do not like lab work,” chuckled McAbee. “I changed my major to my best subject, mathematics. I plan to be a mathematics professor when I complete my schooling, so it was better to realize that now than later.”

Miller is currently studying at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, majoring in exercise science. McAbee is studying at Presbyterian College majoring in mathematics.

### **Focusing on Scottish Culture**

For the SCICU grant, Dr. Cheek and Edmonds discussed ideas and, after some pivots in the angle, focused on how the Scots-Irish heritage impacted the Appalachian culture.

“I really wanted to study the history of linguistics in Appalachia history,” said Edmonds. “I believe it has very close ties to the Scottish-Irish culture that arrived in the 1700s-1800s. However, I wasn’t able to find enough supporting materials to continue that angle and decided upon the overall influence of the Scots-Irish heritage on the people of Appalachia.”



At left: Austin Miller (from left), Dr. Adam Siegfried and Bret McAbee tinker with molecular models in the lab at SMC.

At middle: McAbee sets up a vacuum distillation in Plyler Laboratories at Furman University.

Below: Dr. Cole Cheek and sophomore Emily Edmunds during a recent meeting to discuss Edmund's research progress.



**“THIS EXPERIENCE  
GAVE ME MORE  
CONFIDENCE IN  
MY ACADEMIC  
FUTURE BY GIVING  
ME EXPERIENCE  
I NEED TO BE  
SUCCESSFUL.”**

– AUSTIN MILLER '16

Dr. Cheek supervised the research and learned more from Edmunds than he anticipated. “I don’t know much about linguistics or the Scottish-Irish heritage, so although I could help with the process, she was the one to find the information and put the historical pieces together. I learned a lot through her process,” he said.

Edmonds appreciated the experience and looks forward to presenting her paper at a SCICU conference in February 2017.

“This experience has solidified my love and interest in history,” said Edmunds. “The project is going to help me from a resume perspective as I begin applying for college and graduate school in order to pursue my history degree.”

---

# A CULTURE OF COMMITMENT

SMC'S SHINING 2015-2016 SEASON BY BAKER MAULTSBY

---





- ✓ TALENTED, HARDWORKING STUDENT-ATHLETES
- ✓ EXPERIENCED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE COACHES
- ✓ GOOD FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Spartanburg Methodist College has these essential ingredients for success in college sports.

But basketball player Anthony Adger believes there's another key to SMC's success—something harder to put a finger on but nonetheless essential. It could be described as a sense of community—a sense of family, even.

Athletes are normally expected to bond with teammates. At SMC, Adger says, camaraderie goes beyond a player's specific team.

"Everybody gets along so well. We all support each other," he said. "That's the beauty of it."

Student-athletes turn out to cheer on each other's teams. They encourage each other in the weight room and when paths cross at practice. They are friends in class and around campus.

Adger, a highly touted point guard from Iva, South Carolina, added that coaches, too, are supportive outside of their own sport. "If the gym or locker room is locked, you can go to any of the coaches. They'll help you out."

This culture of commitment and support has produced winning teams over the years – and 2015-2016 was a shining example.



Adger's team had a strong season, achieving a 26-7 record, winning the Region X championship and earning a spot in the NJCAA national tournament. Coach Jon Cremins was named Region X Coach of the Year.

Men's basketball was among many highlights in 2015-2016 (see sidebar for the complete list).

Perhaps the biggest story of the year was SMC softball. The team earned a trip to the

## SMC's Championship Season

### BASEBALL

42-20 record; competed in NJCAA Eastern District Tournament; Mason Berne '16 named NJCAA Second Team All-American and Region X Player of the Year; Head Baseball Coach Tim Wallace named Region X Coach of the Year.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

26-7 record; Region X champions; NJCAA national tournament appearance; Coach Jon Cremins named Region X Coach of the Year.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Region X champions; Coach Briana Clark named Region X Coach of the Year; Heather Chapman '16 named Player of the Year.

### MEN'S GOLF

Undefeated record; NJCAA national tournament qualifier Matthew Terry '17.

### WOMEN'S GOLF

Brooke Hutto '16 named Region X champion; NJCAA national tournament qualifiers Hutto and Abrea Grant '16.

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Region X champions; District champions; NJCAA national tournament qualifiers.

### SOFTBALL

55-11 record; NJCAA World Series appearance, Coach Thad Fox named Region X Coach of the Year, Bailey Pearson '16 named Pitcher of the Year, Maddy Labrador '16 named Player of the Year.

### MEN'S TENNIS

Region X champions; finished 13th in NJCAA national tournament; Adam Elliget ranked 10th singles player in nation; Elliget and Junior Duarte '17 earned All-American honors.

### WRESTLING

Daquon Wilson '16, national silver medalist.

NJCAA World Series in St. George, Utah. They came up short of the national title, but finished the year with a 55-11 record.

A host of individual honors came the team's way: Coach Thad Fox was recognized as Region X Coach of the Year Bailey Pearson won league Pitcher of the Year and Maddy Labrador was named Player of the Year. Numerous other players were named to the Region X all-conference team.

"It's pretty remarkable," said Todd Shanesy, who covers local college teams for the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*.

Shanesy has watched the ups and downs of numerous programs in the Upstate in his years as a sports journalist. He's impressed by the consistency of SMC's success and a winning tradition that has included several World Series trips by the baseball program and, only a few years ago, a national number one ranking for men's basketball.

"Just across the board, their teams are solid," he remarked.

It's all the more impressive, Shanesy said, because many of schools in the NJCAA have much higher enrollments than SMC. Moreover, SMC cannot offer full athletic scholarships for all student-athletes.

That means SMC's coaches and admission staff must work together to make scholarship and financial aid dollars stretch.

A lack of scholarships can put SMC's teams at a disadvantage. But in some respects, it turns out to be a positive for the college. Coaches recruit players who are strong enough students to earn academic scholarships and state aid (such as lottery scholarships). Student-athletes who are serious about their coursework bring stability and leadership to their teams while adding to the academic strength of the college.

Describing SMC's foundation for success, athletic director and head baseball coach Tim Wallace echoed some of basketball player Adger's thoughts. Support for all students permeates the institution, he said. Coaches and student-athletes find themselves drawn to the college and to one another.

"SMC athletics has been successful...first and foremost, SMC itself is an institution that is attractive to student-athletes and their families," Wallace said. "Folks can appreciate the fact that the college sincerely cares about the experience that young people will have here."





**Freshman Li Lee**  
interned at Ballet  
Spartanburg.

# WORK IT!

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS  
INTRODUCE SMC  
STUDENTS TO  
CAREER OPTIONS

BY STACEY MAJKRZAK

## FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SUMMER,

18 Spartanburg Methodist College students participated in internship opportunities provided through Jonathan Keisler, professor of economics, and Kathleen Brown, director of the Pioneer Learning Communities (PLC) and adjunct professor of biology. The internships allowed students to get a firsthand look at careers they may be interested in pursuing.

The students received a scholarship for their internship participation through the Pioneer Learning Communities, which is a purposeful structuring of courses and activities designed to increase the chance for student success in personal, academic and professional arenas.

“The students had to apply for the scholarship,” said Brown. “Once accepted, they were responsible for creating a resume and interviewing for the internship. It’s meant to be a true job experience to prepare them for their field of choice.”

The students chosen for the scholarship had academic interests that ranged from business to architecture. Each completed 100 internship hours over the summer.



**Sophomore Efrain Tello interned at McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture.**



**Sophomore Madison Morehead interned at Spartan Camera and Photo.**

Efrain Tello interned at McMillan Pazdan Smith, an architecture firm operating in Spartanburg. “My dad has spent his career preserving old buildings and making them new,” said Tello. “I grew up seeing the transformation of old to new and am grateful to have spent time with a company that does that so well.”

Tello was involved with office business tasks and site visits to new and old projects in the field.

“A big part of this internship program is to get students thinking about their career earlier in their freshman year, which allows them to construct their curriculum to maximize their value once they hit the job market,” Keisler said. “The earlier students start building human capital that makes them more marketable in the long run, the more career success they will achieve.”

Madison Morehead had an interest in being a photographer and was accepted to Spartan Camera and Photo for her internship. What she learned turned her career choice around.

“My internship did emphasize my interest in photography, but as I consider a future career, I feel business may be a better angle,” Morehead said. She now plans to pursue a social entrepreneurship degree and open a business that gives back.

Jacob Noland interned at the SMC Pioneer Learning Communities, one of the sponsors of the summer internships. His career goal of entrepreneurship fit well with the mission of the organization.

“The outreach mission of PLC blends so closely with business and sales careers,” said Noland. “I was a new student once that was immediately welcomed by the PLC group, and I want others new to campus to feel the same way.”

Lee Li, who transferred to USC Upstate after the summer to pursue a business major, experienced the operations of nonprofit organization Ballet Spartanburg. She spent time assisting with marketing roles and performance preparation.

“I really enjoyed experiencing the business side of the organization and then watching the performances come alive,” said Li. “I got to see the full circle of business operation and how everything works together for an end goal.”

Recognizing the importance of field experience, Brown hopes to see the scholarship program continue.

“The internships provided students access to career environments so they could determine whether these fields were of real interest,” Brown said. “Academically, this gave students an idea of what they are working toward so they could understand how their education will be put to use in a concrete way. Usually students just have an abstract or conceptual view of a career and how their education may or may not be useful. Professionally, students got an opportunity to be in a work environment and see what really goes on in the particular culture of that profession.”

# STUDENTS WARM UP TO JUDD CELLAR COFFEE SHOP

When students returned to campus in August, a hot cup of coffee was waiting for them in the newly transformed Judd Cellar Coffee Shop, which proudly serves Starbucks.

Once a laundry area in the basement of Eliza H. Judd Residence Hall, the stylish and cozy coffee spot has been a hit with students, says manager Holly Boyce of Sodexo (which operates all campus dining locations). “In the mornings, students meet here or do their schoolwork and business is very steady,” she says. “At night, though, it’s packed with students who want a fun place to socialize.”

SMC students who purchase a meal plan can pop into Judd Cellar for a coffee and muffin or fruit in the mornings on their way to class. In the afternoons and evening, the



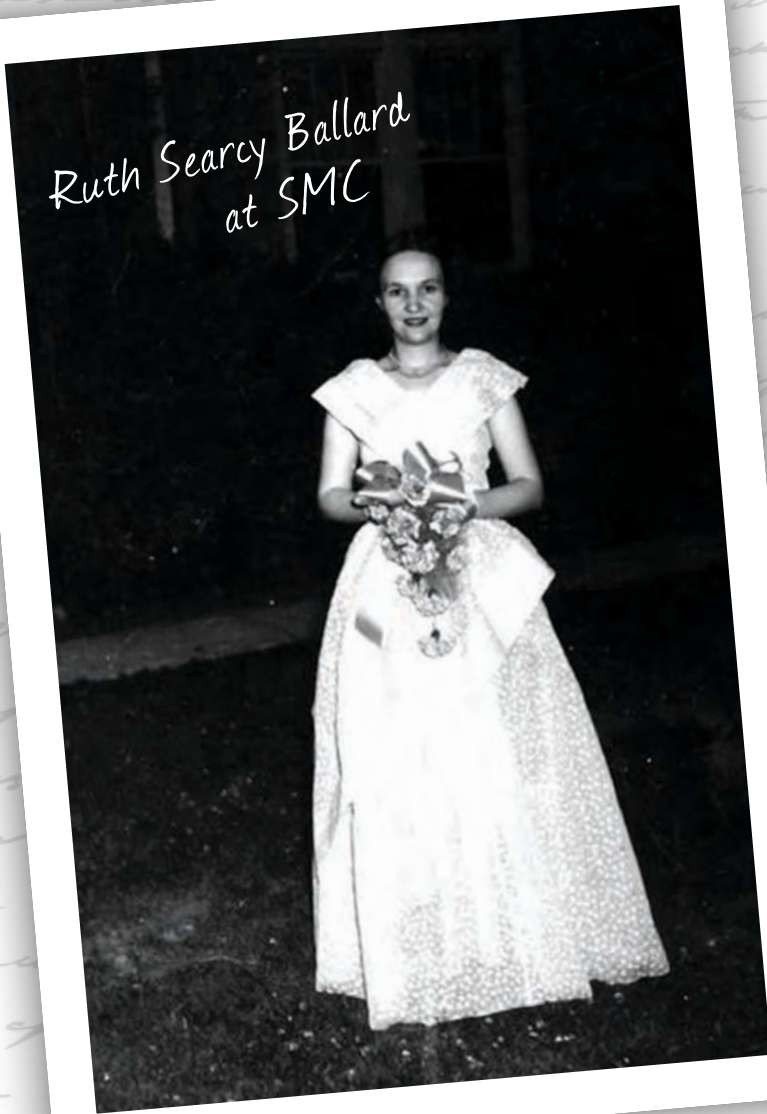
Sophomore Sheila Reyes and freshman Abby Rampey enjoy takeout food and coffee from the new Judd Cellar Coffee Shop.

shop offers individual pizzas and sodas as a tasty and fast alternative to the more substantial fare available in the Burgess Student Center Dining Hall and Ellis Hall Sub Connection.

And then there are the coffee drinks, all of which are 100 percent Starbucks products – made from the same ingredients and recipes and on the same equipment as at your neighborhood Starbucks location. The Judd Cellar Coffee Shop offers a full range of Starbucks drinks, including holiday favorites like Peppermint Mocha and Chestnut Praline Latte.

While the location isn’t technically open to the public, visitors to campus are always welcome. The next time you come back to SMC, pop in for a tasty beverage!

Ruth Searcy Ballard  
at SMC



On September 20, The Ballard Center, which houses the college's new Professional Development Program (see page 34), was officially opened and dedicated in memory of Ruth Ballard by her husband, donor Ret. Air Force Lt. Col. Arthur "Ted" Ballard '51.

This is the story of the woman who inspired Ballard's gift to SMC.



# UNCOMMON STRENGTH, ENDURING LOVE

BY LISA MINCEY WARE

RUTH SEARCY BALLARD '52



Ruth and Ted  
at the SMC  
May Queen Dance

*At 84 years old, Ted Ballard easily recalls the first time he saw the woman who would become his wife.*

*"I thought she was really good-looking," he remembers.*

*Ted first met the auburn-haired, brown-eyed Ruth Searcy at Fowler Brothers Cleaners in 1950, where the two Spartanburg Junior College (now SMC) students had jobs as part of a co-op arrangement in which they worked for two weeks and went to school for two weeks.*

*Neither student had a car, so their boss, John Fowler, picked them up each day, driving first to campus to get Ruth and then to Ballard's nearby home.*

*Along the way, love blossomed.*

*"I was dating someone else pretty seriously at the time, but eventually it became Ruth and me," Ted says.*

*Ted was drawn by her looks, but also by her strength and confidence, he says.*

*For Ruth, both of the qualities Ted admired in her would be tested during the difficult years ahead for the young couple.*



### A Country at War

After graduating from SJC in 1951, Ballard was at Clemson University when the Korean War and a lifelong interest in flying led him to the Air Force's Aviation Cadet Program. Cadets couldn't be married, so Ruth finished her education and took a job in Spartanburg while Ballard trained as a jet pilot. In 1955, two days after he received his Air Force commission, the couple wed.



*Ruth and Ted, early 1950s*



*Ted and Kevin, 1960*

The next decade was a busy and exciting time for the newlyweds. Ballard's military career took them to glamorous postings in Las Vegas, Nevada; Victorville, California; Tripoli, Libya; and Okinawa, Japan. Ruth embraced military life, volunteering in hospitals as a "Grey Lady" and working in secretarial positions for military top brass.

"She loved the service," Ballard says with pride. "She became very knowledgeable about every part of it."

When their son Kevin was born in 1959, like many women of the time, Ruth turned her considerable intelligence and focus to raising him. Ballard's sister, Evelyn (a 1962 SJC graduate), remembers traveling from Spartanburg to California to help Ruth while her brother was on temporary assignment in Spain.

"She was my role model," Evelyn says. "Growing up in a small mill house with six brothers and a younger sister, I didn't learn much about house-keeping. In the short time I was with her, Ruth taught me how to keep a house, raise a child and instilled in me a love of learning – by reading. She was a smart, smart woman. She and Ted encouraged and supported my educational goals and attainment of my associate degree at Spartanburg Junior College and my B.A. degree from Furman University."

While the couple built their life together, the United States became more involved in the growing unrest in Vietnam. Skirmishes between the communist North and democratic South, split into two separate countries in 1954, exploded into heavy fighting involving American troops in 1965. Ballard, now a captain assigned to the 13th Tactical Fighter Squadron, flew dozens of combat missions into North Vietnam, always returning safely to Korat Air Base in Thailand. Ruth and Kevin waited at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa.

On September 26, 1966, during his 68th mission, a bombing run north of Hanoi, Ballard's F-105 jet was hit by enemy fire. He ejected from the fiery warplane and lost consciousness as his parachute drifted to the ground. He woke up with a badly broken left leg, a sprained right leg and a Vietnamese soldier's rifle pointed at his head.

### Unwavering Courage

Back in Okinawa, Ruth was now living every military spouse's worst nightmare: no one knew if her husband was alive or dead. She and Kevin (now six) returned to her family's farm in Lake Lure, North Carolina, where she set herself resolutely to the task of providing a good life for her son while waiting to learn her husband's fate.

It would be three long years before word would come.

"We kept in touch with Ruth all those years, of course," Evelyn remembers. "She was the rock for our mother and father because they were very distraught. But Ruth was always solid. She always believed and repeatedly said 'He's alive' before we even got notice officially that he was."

In 1969, Ruth finally learned that her husband was indeed alive and being held, along with hundreds of other American servicemen, in North Vietnamese POW camps.

Another year passed before the first letter arrived from him. Three more would pass before his release.

Ballard's brother, Jim, also an SMC student during the 1960s and a young husband himself when Ted's plane was shot down, recalls Ruth as the perfect military spouse. "I have never met another individual who exhibited more strength, more courage and more integrity

than she did," he recalls. "She took their son, went back to the 'mountains' as I called it, and worked. She was everything we all hoped we could be if put into that situation."

During the remaining years of her husband's captivity, Ruth sent dozens of care packages with warm clothes, food and photos. Precious little made it into Ballard's hands, and some of it was used by guards in failed attempts to bribe him into betraying secrets. When kinder guards let packages through, Ballard says they were a lifeline that helped him endure the deprivation, loneliness and torture he experienced in the camps.

Ruth found another way to help by participating in the "Wives of Vietnam POWs" movement organized by Sybil Stockdale, the wife of a Navy pilot shot down in 1965 and held captive in North Vietnam for seven years. Her work and the work of other wives focused international attention on the plight of American prisoners who were being starved and tortured in violation of the Geneva Convention.



*Ruth & Kevin read letters from Ted*

“I have never met another individual who exhibited more strength, more courage and more integrity than she did.”

*Jim Ballard '66*

“Ruth would go to malls and public places to gather signatures on petitions to get the attention of lawmakers,” Evelyn says. “Ruth inspired me to work with the local Wives of Vietnam POWs in Atlanta, where I was teaching in a junior high school, to canvass the local malls for signatures on petitions to send to Congress.”

The wives’ efforts and the resulting media coverage led to better treatment for POWs.

In 1973, Ballard, along with 600 other U.S. prisoners, was finally released. “I’ll never forget stopping in the Philippine Islands, and we all got to call home. As soon as Ruth answered the phone, I knew that everything was all right,” he says.

Back in the states, Ballard was assigned to Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, and the family began

rebuilding their lives. After a medical exam revealed a head injury suffered during torture, he put his energy into finishing college – and received his bachelor’s and master’s degree from Troy State University in Alabama and served on the War College’s faculty until his retirement from the Air Force in 1977.

An opportunity to teach Junior ROTC at Gaffney High brought the family back to South Carolina, and Lt. Col Ballard had his second career, retiring in 1997. After returning to Ted’s hometown, Ruth also pursued her educational goals by completing and receiving her bachelor’s degree in business from USC-Upstate.

Meanwhile, Kevin grew into a brilliant young man, turning a childhood love of science—encouraged by his mother during their years in Lake Lure—into a bachelor’s degree from



Wofford, then a master's and a doctorate in pharmacology from the South Carolina Medical College.

### A Legacy of Love

But Ruth's strength was to be cruelly tested again. In 2009, Kevin died suddenly of a heart attack at age 49. Now living every parent's worst nightmare, Ruth, though brokenhearted, endured their son's tragic loss with characteristic dignity and resolve, says Ballard.

In 2015, when Ruth's own health began to fail, she and Ballard discussed the legacy she wanted to leave behind. "[SMC] was where our lives together started," Ballard says. "We talked about doing something for the school. I think it's just an ideal place for young students who are not really sure what they want to do, where they can get a couple years of good general knowledge."

Ruth Searcy Ballard died on December 16, 2015. In a message posted on the website [pownetwork.org](http://pownetwork.org) the day after her death, Ballard wrote, "60 years of marriage. My heart is just broken."

In April 2016, Ballard established a lasting memorial to Ruth with a gift to endow a scholarship and provide a home for the college's new Professional Development Center.

Fittingly, the new Ballard Center, officially opened and dedicated on September 20, 2016, is in a renovated wing of Judd Hall, where Ruth lived during her student days.

"She would love it," Ballard says. "I used to visit her there in the lobby. Knowing that students are learning there, starting their lives there like us...I know it would make her happy."



Members of the Ballard family cut the ribbon during the Ballard Center dedication in September. From left to right: Wayne Ballard, Carolyn Ballard, Ted Ballard '51, Evelyn Ballard '62 and Jim Ballard '66.



# Professional Development Seminar

Learning Valuable Skills for Now and Later

BY LISA MINCEY WARE



President Scott Cochran leads a recent meeting of the new Professional Development Seminar in the Ballard Center.

**W**hen SMC freshman Austin Hinkle '18 went to a meeting with a local financial planner to talk about starting a retirement account, he remembered what he'd learned in his Professional Development Seminar: most people form an impression within seven seconds of meeting someone new. He dressed nicely, gave a solid handshake and made eye contact as he introduced himself. Throughout the meeting, he listened attentively, took notes and asked questions from a prepared list.

A day or two later, he got a phone call from the financial planner, who offered him a paid internship. "He told me how impressed he was that I handled myself so well during our meeting," says Hinkle. The Spartanburg High graduate is now getting paid to learn financial planning. If things go well, the internship could turn into a full-time job after graduation.

**“I also believe that even in a team setting, everyone has the capability to be a strong leader.”**

**Coach Briana Clark**

If that sounds impressive, there's more: this wasn't Hinkle's first job offer. The company he's worked part-time for since high school is not only willing to employ him after graduation, but to also pay for college if he'll sign a contract committing to work for them when he completes his degree.

“So here's this freshman in college with two job offers on the table,” muses President Scott Cochran, who teaches the college's new Professional Development Seminar to Hinkle and 35 other students. “He can basically write his own ticket. That's unusual for someone his age, but anyone who knows Austin understands that he's smart, motivated and willing to hustle.”

“Hustle,” which used to evoke the '70s-era dance or a con artist's game, is a name given in the professional world to hard work that moves you toward your goal. Call it hustle, drive, grit or whatever you like, Cochran says, but it's one of the top characteristics shared by successful people in any field. “It doesn't matter if you work for a bank, a museum, a hospital or even for yourself. The people who are real successes know how to work hard.”

Students in Cochran's seminar hustle just to participate in the class, which is offered at 8 a.m. – a time when many students would rather be sleeping – and does not carry any course credit (it also doesn't cost them anything). “We thought we'd be lucky to get 15 students at that hour and with nothing to gain on their transcripts,” jokes Courtney Shelton, Vice President for Professional Development and Design and co-instructor for the seminar. “When 38 showed up on the first day, we were blown away. And to get beyond the midpoint of the semester and only seeing two drop out is way beyond our expectations.”

One reason the class filled up was Briana Clark, women's basketball coach, who challenged her entire team of 21 students to take the seminar. “I told them if they didn't like it, they could drop it,” Clark says. All 16 of the students who went to the first session decided to remain in the course. “Young adults need to understand how to present themselves and the group they're representing with professionalism,” Clark explains. “I also believe that even in a team setting, everyone has the capability to be a strong leader. Sometimes they just need to know where and how to begin.”

Clark has seen an immediate change in her students. Quiet and reserved women have begun speaking up. Fist bumps have been replaced by firm handshakes and strong eye contact. Posture,



confidence, focus and attention to detail have all improved. “These may seem like little things, but they’ll not only help them in their future endeavors, but have already helped them on the basketball court,” notes Clark.

One student who has made a significant change is Yazmeen Young, a sophomore forward from Greenville, South Carolina. Clark noticed that Young, always a strong leader by example through the manners, positive outlook and hard work she displayed on the court, has begun addressing her teammates directly when they step out of line. “Her confidence and comfort level with her own leadership ability has skyrocketed,” Clark says. “The seminar is helping Yazmeen, and many of her teammates, realize that their voices and opinions are important and should be shared.”

“I can tell a difference in myself, in my classes and feeling ready to further my career when I leave SMC,” says Young. “I’m excited about work now and ready for it.” Young is scheduled to begin an internship with a local chiropractor who specializes in sports medicine, a career area she hopes to pursue after SMC.

Freshman Austin Hinkle, a Professional Development Seminar participant, already has two job offers following graduation.

Each seminar meeting begins with a “leadership moment,” delivered by Cochran, which examines a real-world example of a poor decision made in the workplace and its impact. From there, students spend time learning specific topics such as personal brand, success factors, teamwork and design thinking. The students are also engaged in a consulting project, which involves framing a problem, conducting research and developing realistic solutions.

“Problem solving is a constant in every workplace,” Cochran stresses. “Students who go into their first jobs already able to work efficiently as part of a team to identify, understand and solve a problem will have a significant advantage over their colleagues who haven’t had this kind of training.”

As the semester begins to wind down, seminar participants are busy preparing to present the results of their consulting project to the entire campus community. Since early September, working in teams of six students under Shelton’s direction, they’ve studied the problem of how to make the campus more enjoyable for students on the weekends. To complete the

project, they’ve learned how to identify team member strengths, assign tasks based on those strengths, conduct interviews with a variety of campus constituencies (including faculty, staff and students of different class years) and compile research results so that similarities in data among the groups can be identified.

“They’ve done most of this work outside of the seminar class, on their own time, in addition to their normal classwork, part-time jobs and social activities,” says Shelton. “One of the big discoveries has been that some campus policies may be inadvertently working against creating a desirable weekend atmosphere.”



Sophomore Yazmeen Young, a forward on the women’s basketball team, has embraced leadership on and off the court.

As part of their work, the students must develop realistic ideas for solving the problem, as well as the steps necessary to implement their ideas, says Shelton. “Their solutions have to be based on research, not just ‘wouldn’t it be cool if.’ I’m really looking forward to seeing what they come up with.”

The seminar has been so successful and the changes so apparent in the participants that Cochran and Shelton are planning to offer the class again in the spring semester, at the same time and not for credit. “It’s incredibly rewarding to see students go

from slouching in their chairs and not taking the class seriously to now hanging on every word and writing pages of notes every class. They’re getting it,” says Shelton.

“We’re looking at how we can expand the class to make it available to more students,” Cochran says. “Can we do it on a Tuesday and Thursday or make it part of Orientation? Ultimately, we want every SMC student to learn these skills and behaviors as part of their degree.”



Courtney Shelton, Vice President for Professional Development and Design (seated in chair) leads a discussion with new SMC students in the Ballard Center.



“Most important of all is passion. You have to believe in what you are doing.”

---

---

**FOR INGRID KELLER '04**, spreading the joy of music around her community is not only part of her job, it is her passion. Keller was recently named the Executive Director of the Western Piedmont Symphony in Hickory, North Carolina, after working as the Executive Director of the Newton-Conover Auditorium in Conover, North Carolina.

Keller is a renaissance woman, to say the least, and she brings a wealth of education, experience and love of music to her newest opportunity with the Western Piedmont Symphony. After graduating from SMC in 2004, she moved on to complete a B.A. in communications from Elon University and a master of arts degree in arts administration and cultural policy from the University of London. After graduating from Elon in 2007, Keller moved to Seoul, Korea to teach English, drama and music to students ranging from 16 months to 65 years old! Beginning in 2011, while earning her master's in London, she worked for the Donmar Warehouse Theatre and Handel House Museum.

If you have ever questioned the value of a liberal arts education, just spend a few hours with the multitasking Ms. Keller. While there is no typical day in the office, she spends each one tackling a very diverse list of tasks. Being the “face” of the symphony in the community, one of her main responsibilities is managing fundraising efforts for the nonprofit organization. She plans local events, writes grant proposals

---

---

# INGRID KELLER '04 BRINGING MUSIC TO MANY EARS

---

---

BY JENNI BRICKHOUSE MAURAN

and makes sure to network closely with charities and foundations that can be of great financial support. In addition to covering the symphony's operating expenses, Keller uses the raised funds to collaborate with local schools, colleges and arts organizations to bring the arts to people in a 10-county community. "Are we meeting the needs of the public? Are we bringing the arts to people in new and unique ways?" she asks. With programs like Summer Pops: Symphony Under the Sails, Soup Salad & Strings and The Western Piedmont Youth Symphony, Keller is hoping to provide music programs for all ages and families.

Keller graduated from Maiden High School in Maiden, North Carolina. Being the daughter of a Methodist minister and heavily involved in the Methodist church, Keller was attracted to SMC as one of her college options. She was offered a substantial academic scholarship and the opportunity to join the cheerleading squad (Go Pioneers!), so she accepted the offer and started her college career at SMC. In addition to cheering, Keller

took private piano lessons and was very active with the Theatre Department, Student Ambassadors and Pioneer Peers. She managed a busy activities and volunteer schedule while earning a communications degree in broadcast and new media. Small classes and close relationships with professors, in her opinion, created a strong educational environment. "Every teacher knew my name, and I wasn't a number."

How did SMC help Keller get where she is today? She attributes her success to a nurturing faculty and a campus community that encouraged her to get involved. "There is so much to do. It is out there. You just have to take advantage of the opportunities," says Keller. She is particularly grateful for the folks who encouraged her love for the arts. Kent Newberry, her Theatre instructor,

encouraged her to be a leader on stage. "I received the SMC Players MVP Award." Keller also remembers fondly her time with Susan Davis, her piano instructor at SMC. "When I was working with her, I practiced more than I had ever practiced in my life!"

Keller's fondest memories are those of times with her SMC friends. "One day, we randomly organized a campus-wide game of hide-and-seek," she remembers. "Around 150 students showed up, and we hid all over campus." Keller says she was blessed beyond measure during her time at SMC. "I made great friends. I keep in touch with my SMC friends more than most others."

So what would this accomplished Pioneer tell future SMC students? "I would tell them what my father told me: college is what you make of it." Keller

continues, "Seek out opportunities. There is plenty to do! Spartanburg Methodist has everything you could ever want in a college." Keller has one more bit of advice, a lesson she learned as a result of struggling in Cultural Anthropology class. After she gave it her all, she realized in the end that it wasn't a good fit for her. Keller says she hopes that young people realize, "There are all sorts of directions our lives can take. Just because you may change your path along the way doesn't mean you have failed."

Today, as the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization, Keller describes what it takes to get the job done. "You have to have a professional presence. You must articulate clearly the mission of the organization to the community. Most important of all is passion. You have to believe in what you are doing." Keller is certain that her beginnings at SMC helped foster these qualities and mold her into the person, musician and professional she is today.



“The ability to serve people with the knowledge and experience I have gained through the years is very satisfying.”

---

---

# DANNY GULLEDGE '96

---

---

## A PIONEER HERO

BY JENNI BRICKHOUSE MAURAN

### LT. DANNY GULLEDGE '96

is one of Spartanburg Methodist College's true alumni heroes. A firefighter with the Simpsonville Fire Department, he, along with his colleagues, is keeping the Greenville area safe each day.

Gulledge has a wealth of experience, having been fighting fires for over 20 years. While some moments of his day may resemble an episode of *Chicago Fire*, much of his day is spent serving his community in different ways. "There really isn't a typical day," Gulledge explains. Some days are spent checking off important tasks such as cleaning and maintaining the trucks and other equipment. On other days, the team works out, runs drills and performs hands-on training.

Then there are the calls: Gulledge says that the fire department responds to most emergency calls these days. In addition to fire response, Gulledge and his team respond to vehicle accidents, medical emergencies and hazardous materials situations. Special rescue response is also handled by the fire department, including trench and swift water rescue.

What drives a man to work 24-hour shifts and put himself in the face of danger? "Having the ability to come into the lives of people, at what is probably their worst time, and having a positive impact," Gulledge says. "We arrive into chaotic situations and bring some sort of calmness with our actions. The ability to serve people with the knowledge and experience I have gained through the years is very satisfying."

Another hat Gulledge wears is community educator. He particularly enjoys getting out into the community and mentoring the youth in Greenville. "Especially in the summer, children come to the station, and we go over fire prevention. They really love to climb in the fire truck," he laughs. Ten years ago, the department started a puppet show program to educate younger children. The puppet show visits the elementary schools in the Greenville area and teach the children about fire prevention in an entertaining way.

So what inspired Gulledge to want to be a firefighter? Planning to be a civil servant, and specifically a police officer, he enrolled in the Criminal Justice program at SMC. While volunteering for the local fire department, he was immediately attracted to the idea of being a firefighter. After graduation, Gulledge completed additional education at USC Upstate and trained with the South Carolina Fire Academy.

Gulledge is thankful for his time at SMC. "I really got a great education. It paved a path for me." Faculty member Duane Everhart, chair of the Criminal Justice Department at the time, was a very positive influence in Gulledge's life, personally and professionally. He also attributes SMC's small, close-knit community to helping him reach his goals. "There are so many opportunities that help you find your way," Gulledge says. He hopes current and incoming SMC students get involved and make the most of the many activities the school has to offer. "Don't

isolate yourself," he advises. "Experience the different parts of campus. Get involved with the community."

While he may be a hero in the public's eyes, Gulledge views his roles as husband and father as his most important. "My wife and kids are the most important thing. It is important to have a strong support system at home. Since I am on shift for 24 hours and participate in a lot of training and continuing education, my wife has to wear a lot of different hats while I am gone. I try to spend time with my boys outside hunting, fishing, camping, boating and supporting them in their sports pursuits."

Thank you, Lt. Danny Gulledge, for dedicating your life to being a first responder and taking risks each day to make sure your community is safe and protected. You are a Pioneer hero, and your college is very proud to call you an alum.



# A LASTING IMPRESSION

## A fountain is built and dedicated to honor former President Colleen Perry Keith

BY LISA MINCEY WARE

The Colleen Perry Keith Fountain is located between Ellis Hall, Bridges Arena and Sparrow Residence Hall.

**W**hen Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, SMC's seventh President, left the college in 2015 to accept a position as President of Pfeiffer University, Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher, current Board of Trustees member and Chair of the Board at the time, asked her what she would like as a gift to remind her of her six years of service to the college. "She said she wanted nothing for herself," Dr. Fisher recalls. "She told me that if we wanted to do something for her, to do something that will benefit the students."

Dr. Fisher and then-Board member Phyllis DeLapp put their heads together. "We thought about a garden but were concerned about the amount of upkeep it would require for the college. We wanted a gift that would respect Colleen's wishes and not place a long-term financial burden on the school," says DeLapp. "I loved Ellis Hall, which had been finished in 2011 while Colleen was in office, and I thought a fountain would be an attractive addition to the circle in front and would give students a gathering place."

DeLapp contacted Charles Godfrey, a Spartanburg-based landscape architect and longtime family friend, and asked him to draw up designs for the

fountain. "Charles is so talented, and I felt comfortable with his design because I knew it would be in good taste and represent the college and Colleen perfectly," DeLapp says.

Dr. Fisher presented the designs to the Board, which unanimously approved them. "Every Board member pledged to help fund the fountain before leaving the meeting," Fisher says. "And because Colleen was so involved with the larger community outside of the college and had done so much to raise awareness of SMC, we wanted to give those organizations a chance also to participate in the fountain project."

Eric McDonald, Executive Vice President for Business Affairs and Interim President of the college, and Leah Pruitt '96, Director of Alumni Relations, worked with DeLapp and Dr. Fisher to reach out to community organizations. The successful fundraising effort lasted ten months, and construction began on the fountain in February 2016. It was completed in May, just in time for graduating students to throw shiny new pennies into during the spring commencement exercises.

On October 19, the fountain was officially dedicated during a brief ceremony attended by Board members, faculty, staff, students and members of the community. Dr. Colleen Perry Keith and fountain architect Charles Godfrey were guests of honor.

“When I heard that a fountain was planned, I was beyond humbled. What an amazing gift to the SMC campus! The fact that water figures prominently is important. It

symbolizes rebirth and salvation,” says Dr. Keith. “We turn to water as a calming and renewing force – we spend our vacations on the beach or at the lake. It’s my hope that students, faculty and staff at SMC will find peace and a sense of calm when they visit the fountain. I hope it becomes their fountain of life and renewal. I am forever grateful for my six years at SMC, for this fountain in my honor, and am excited for what lies ahead for the college.”



Former President Colleen Perry Keith tosses a penny into the fountain during the dedication ceremony.

## Thank You, Fountain Contributors!

Ingo Angermeier  
Arkwright Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Trey Arrington  
(Jennifer)  
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Aylor (Jean)  
Mr. W. D. Bain, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Baker  
(Paula)  
The Barnett Foundation Trust,  
Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. William Barnett III  
(Valerie)  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Barnett  
(Doris)  
Mason Moore Barrett  
Mr. and Mrs. David M.  
Beacham (Cyndi)  
Ella Mae Ackerman Bowers | 1972  
The Reverend Michael Esley  
Bowers | 1974  
Dr. Ann Bowles  
Mellnee G. Buchheit  
Mary Frances Lee Cantrell |  
1958  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lee  
Crocker (Dianne)  
Dr. Wayne A. Culp  
Mary Washington Deku  
Phyllis Buchheit DeLapp  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dunn (Jenny)  
Dr. Charlotte L. Ellis  
Dr. Edgar Heberton Ellis, Jr. |  
1956  
\*Dr. John S. Featherston

Nora Beth Featherston  
Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher  
Tony Fisher  
Mr. A. Gordon Floyd  
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Gibbs (Lisa)  
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Gramling  
II (Ellen)  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger A.F.  
Habisreutinger (Marianna)  
The Honorable and Mrs. J.  
Mark Hammond (Virginia)  
Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Harper  
(Polly)  
Mr. and Mrs. Will Harper (Yvonne)  
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hawkins (Anje)  
The Reverend and Mrs.  
Lawrence F. Hays, Jr. (Sally)  
John Patrick Henry | 1964  
Marvis Wiggins Henry | 1963  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Isenhower  
(Lisa)  
RADM and Mrs. Stephen  
I. Johnson, USN (Ret.)  
(Melissa)  
Dr. William Given Kee  
Vicki Kennedy  
John Michael Kohler, Jr.  
Dr. Franklin Carver Lee  
Doris B. Luther  
\*William H. Luther, Sr.  
Julia D. Lyons  
\*Zerno Evin Martin, Jr.  
Mary C. Mathes  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric McDonald

(Melinda)  
Kathy C. McKinney  
\*Ronald McKinney  
The Reverend Evelyn C.  
Middleton  
The Reverend Gregory Scott  
Middleton | 1978  
Mr. and Mrs. . Byrd Miller, III  
(Liza)  
Karen Mitchell  
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Moore  
(Lindsay)  
Mr. Burness W. O’Cain, Jr. |  
1980  
Mary O’Leary  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. O’Neill  
(Katherine)  
\*Billy Logan Painter  
Linda J. Painter  
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight F.  
Patterson, Jr. (Liz)  
Mr. and Mrs. Craig M. Phillips  
(Kay)  
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Poole  
(Lynne)  
Leah Longshore Pruitt | 1998  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Ramsey  
(Jane)  
W. R. (Ray) Ridgeway | 1964  
Mrs. William B. Royster (Betty)  
| 1945  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Simmons  
(Patsy)  
The Reverend Candice Y. Sloan

Becky Snow  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Somerset  
(Cheryl)  
Spartanburg Regional  
Healthcare System  
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Spriggs (Lisa)  
Dr. and Mrs. John C. Stockwell  
(Diane)  
Suitt Foundation  
Donald E. Tate | 1966  
Theresa Tate  
George Teasley  
The Reverend Mary V. Teasley  
Mr. and Mrs. George H.  
Thomason (Katie)  
Catherine Hawkins Thompson  
| 1956  
Fletcher D. Thompson | 1941  
Harold D. Thompson | 1959  
Mr. and Mrs. James Fletcher  
Thompson (Mia)  
James Fletcher Thompson,  
LLC  
Ruth DeLoache Thompson |  
1942  
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Tidwell  
(Doris)  
The Reverend Lillian H.  
Washington  
Lindsay Lavine Webster  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Wynn III  
(Carolyn)  
Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Zimmerli  
(Nelly)

## ■ alumni events

Ann Hammond Dobson '56 cuts the ribbon on the new Judd Hall Lobby, which was renovated this summer with the support of Ms. Dobson and many other contributors.



From left to right, SMC alumni Brent Poynter '05, Kayla Poynter '05 and Sandy Somerall '65 with President Cochran at the Asheville-area alumni event at Sierra Nevada Brewery in September.



Friends of SMC enjoy the annual Golf Tournament fundraiser at Carolina Country Club, Spartanburg, in September. From left to right, Steve Faulkner, Shelley Blount and Barry McNaughton.

**THE ALUMNI OFFICE** hosts numerous fun and exciting events each year for alumni and friends of the college.

Visit [smcsc.edu/alumni-events](http://smcsc.edu/alumni-events) for a calendar of 2017 events, and come join us!



President Scott Cochran (center) with Young Alumni of the Year Award recipient John “Flex” Johnson ’06 (left) and Alumni of the Year Award recipient Dr. David L. Church ’90. President Cochran presented their awards during Homecoming on November 12.



SMC alumnae Christine Burroughs ’06 (from left), Meagan Ortwerth ’07, Julie Anna (King) Auler ’07 and Lindsay Peace ’06 in the newly renovated Judd Hall during Homecoming.



During Homecoming, the college presented a bench to honor graduates and longtime supporters of the college Fletcher D. Thompson ’41 and his wife Ruth DeLoach Thompson ’42. The couple is flanked by their children (left to right) James Fletcher Thompson, Rebecca Thompson and Bill Brent (Rebecca Thompson’s spouse). The bench is located outside of Judd Hall, where Mrs. Thompson lived during her years at SMC.



See more event photos by liking the SMC Alumni Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/smcals](http://www.facebook.com/smcals)

» 1950

**Mrs. Juanita Pulley Hammett**

Mrs. Hammett and her husband Ted are enjoying their family, including their three great-grandchildren, girls ages five, four and three. Mrs. Hammett looks forward to the Judd Hall renovation. She says her time there was very special. It is where she met her husband of 64 years.

» 1951

**Mrs. Frances Austin Day**

Mrs. Frances Austin Day passed away March 11, 2015, after having taught elementary school for 40 years at Whitesbury Elementary School. Surviving are her husband, R. C. Day Jr., two sons, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

» 1952

**Mrs. Marilyn Blakeley Hatzenbuehler**

Mrs. Hatzenbuehler's oldest granddaughter has come to live with her and is dancing with the Palm Beach Ballet. Mrs. Hatzenbuehler stays active with the United Methodist women and other community organizations.

» 1955

**Mrs. Roberta Altman Thompson**

Mrs. Thompson's husband, Roger, passed away in 2009. She has continued to live in the home where they moved after retirement. After retirement, her husband continued to serve as the pastor of a small Methodist church in Rockingham, North Carolina. It was supposed to be temporary, but the congregation wouldn't give him up. He was there seven years. Mrs. Thompson's daughter lives in Cary, North Carolina. Mrs. Thompson has five grandchildren.

» 1956

**Mrs. Jerlyn Bain Hutto**

Mrs. Hutto is retired and living at Edisto Beach with her husband. She is traveling and enjoying life and grandchildren.

**Mr. C. Roland Smith**

Mr. Smith and his wife enjoy volunteering with their church and Disaster Cycle Services of the American Red Cross. They also love to vacation on cruise ships.

**Mrs. Louise Dawson Luongo**

'40 of Warm Springs, GA | died December 12, 2015

**Mrs. Mary Louise Bullard Elliott**

'41 of Cary, NC | died January 24, 2016

**Mrs. Anna Divver Vaughan Allen**

'44 of Hartsville, SC | died September 6, 2015

**Mrs. Katie Watford Eubanks**

'44 of Summerville, SC | died February 26, 2016

**Dr. James W. Fisher**

'44 of New Orleans, LA | died May 1, 2016

**Mrs. Lillian Catoe Galloway**

'44 of Hartsville, SC | died November 12, 2015

**Mr. John D. Wilson**

'44 of Martinsville, VA | died September 25, 2015

**Mr. Robert White Brown, Sr.**

'50 of Union, SC | died September 20, 2015

**Mr. Joe Earl Pace**

'50 of Spartanburg, SC | died April 15, 2016

**Mrs. Ruth Searcy Ballard**

'51 of Spartanburg, SC | died December 16, 2015

**Mr. Henry P. Kyzer**

'53 of Hickory, NC | died June 26, 2016

**Mr. Conrad Numa Robertson**

'53 of Greer, SC | died February 2, 2016

**Mrs. Barbara Justice Bogan**

'54 of Spartanburg, SC | died June 4, 2016

**Mrs. Carolyn Hayes Culbreath**

'56 of Spartanburg, SC | died October 2, 2015

**Mrs. Jane Clark Pounds**

'56 of Monroe, NC | died October 20, 2015

**Mrs. Jessie Duncan Ryland**

'56 of Westminster, CO | died September 30, 2015

**Mr. Walter B. Corn**

'58 of Spartanburg, SC | died January 2, 2016

**Mr. Hugh E. Mims, Jr.**

'58 of Charleston, SC | died September 14, 2015

**Mr. James L. Geddis**

'59 of Lyman, SC | died December 31, 2015

**Mrs. Sara Lynn Mitchum Hall**

'61 of Charlotte, NC | died September 28, 2016

**Mr. Edward James Buddin**

'62 of Rock Hill, SC | died September 25, 2015

**Mrs. Nina Carolyn Sinclair Greer**

'62 of Union, SC | died February 13, 2016

**Mr. William B. Porter**

'62 of Spartanburg, SC | died October 10, 2015

**Mr. William Robert Guy**

'63 of Moore, SC | died October 14, 2015

**Mr. Harold K. Wilson**

'65 of Spartanburg, SC | died November 28, 2015

**Mr. William T. Going**

'66 of Pacolet, SC | died December 8, 2015

**Mr. Ross Martin Fox**

'66 of Tryon, NC | died September 27, 2016

**Mr. Marvin K. Brown**

'67 of Pacolet, SC | died October 27, 2015

**Mr. Ronnie Wayne Mason**

'67 of Rock Hill, SC | died August 23, 2015

**Mr. Martin R. Kimmons**

'76 of Inman, SC | died January 14, 2016

**Mr. Everette E. McCullough**

'78 of Shelby, NC | died October 15, 2015

**Ms. Michelle W. Hickson**

'98 of Florence, SC | died January 17, 2016

**Ms. Raziya Nicole Maira Prince**

'14 of Mauldin, SC | died March 6, 2016

**Mr. Joe Earl Pace**

'50 of Spartanburg, SC | died April 15, 2016

## » 1966

**Mr. Barry S. Armstrong**

Mr. Armstrong had two great years at SMC. He retired from Stanley after 31 years. He also did some work for Colonial Pipeline in Alabama. He has been blessed to be in Greenville County for 60 years, and blessed to work for four different companies in sales.

## » 1969

**Mr. Thomas E. Mullins**

Mr. Mullins is Principal of a K-12 school and is also a former coach. He has two sons and one grandson. Mr. Mullins says that SMC made a difference in his life.

## » 1971

**Ms. Lois Virginia Gee**

Ms. Gee loved her career as an elementary school guidance counselor. She has really missed the children and working with the families since she retired. She obtained an education specialist degree as a reading consultant. She enjoys living at the beach and enjoys the wonderful state parks nearby. She also enjoys visiting Brookgreen Gardens at Pawley's Island. She has very fond memories of SMC.

## » 1975

**Ms. Adell E. Bell**

Ms. Bell retired from MUSC after 32 years of service in December 2011. She is currently working at Williamsburg Regional Hospital part-time in cardiology as a Cardiac Sonographer.

## » 1976

**Mrs. Gail Bragg Ball**

Mrs. Ball is now a retired tax accountant who loves spoiling her three grandchildren, Kylie, Kinsley and Zackery.

**Mrs. Gloria Greer Elledge**

Mrs. Elledge has retired and is enjoying her grandchildren. She feels blessed to have gone to SMC. She finished high school and married her high school sweetheart at age 18. She was not able to attend college at that point in her life. Later, thanks to evening classes and Saturday College at SMC, she was able to get her degree while balancing her college with taking care of her three school-aged children. Her husband worked as the Director of Duncan Community Services. Mrs. Elledge received her degree in early childhood education and got a job at DCA teaching 4-K. She says that thanks to SMC, her dreams came true.

## » 1977

**Mrs. Debbie Cothran Becknell**

Mrs. Becknell recently celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary. She has two grown daughters and two grandsons. She has been working for Milliken & Co. for 38 years.

## » 1979

**Mrs. Dorothy Drakeford McKelvin**

Mrs. McKelvin recently retired from the Millennium Challenge Corporation in Washington, DC.

## » 1980

**Ms. Angela D. Clark**

After graduating from SMC, Angela worked as a bartender, in accounts receivable for IBM and as a salesperson at Lowe's. Then she found her true passion. She started at CPG (Consumer Product Goods) in September of 1986 as a retail salesperson and has worked her way up through the years. She is now the Director of Business Development with TDG. She has worked for local food brokers as well as several big companies, such as Ferrero USA and the Kellogg Co. In 2003, she went back to school at Keller Graduate School of Management and earned her master's in marketing in June 2005. She lives in Rock Hill, where she and her sister take care of their parents. She enjoys spending time at the beach, the lake and playing golf. She is also the newly elected president of the American Legion Auxiliary Post #34.

## » 1983

**Mr. Jerry Neal Francis**

Mr. Francis has served as the Deafblind Coordinator at the SC Commission for the Blind since 1994. He was promoted to Region II Director in 2008.

## » 1985

**Mrs. Angela Hall Strother**

Mrs. Strother is proud that her son, Connor Hutto, graduated from SMC in 2015, 30 years after she graduated from SMC. After 25 years as a special education teacher, Mrs. Strother has moved into administration and she is now Student Services Coordinator for Hampton District One.

## » 1986

**Mr. Michael Buffalo Smith**

Michael Buffalo Smith has a new book published. It is his seventh, *Capricorn Rising: Conversations in Southern Rock* (Mercer University Press). It collects in-depth interviews with the artists, producers and staff of the 1970s premier Southern Music record label Capricorn, including Gregg Allman, Dickey Betts, producer Tom Dowd, and members of Marshall Tucker Band, Wet Willie, Charlie Daniels Band and many others. Smith recently flew to Austin, Texas, to record a music EP, his first recording since 2005. The album, *Renegade Angel*, is produced by Billy Eli and features several legendary Texas musicians. michaelbuffalo.net

## » 1987

**Ms. Angela Y. Dogan-Moore**

When Angela left SMC, she married a military man who was her high school sweetheart. They have traveled the world together with their three children. They now live in Columbia, South Carolina, and he recently retired after 33 years in the military. Angela now owns her own business called Angela's Service. She says that life is great!

## » 1992

**Mr. Herbert J. Baxter**

Mr. Baxter is a former Minor League baseball player. He played for the Giants, the A's and the Dodgers.

## » 1999

**Mr. Troy Edward Fields**

Mr. Fields and his wife recently had their first child. Kate Oneal Fields was born on October 2, 2014.

## » 2003

**Ms. Sarah Melzer Gibson**

"Today I went back to a place that means so much to me. My story about my time at SMC is very similar to so many others. It's a place that sees students for their full potential and pushes them to reach it. It's a place that I went to, unsure of where I wanted to go in life. A place where faculty took time to get to know me. Where they saw leadership potential in me that no one else had ever recognized. A place that brought me out of the shell I had buried myself so deeply inside of. A place that quite literally made me who I am. Today, I hugged the neck of the Chaplin that encouraged me in to ministry. I shook hands with a former dean who remembered me by name and recalled some of the things I did that made him proud of me. I had the honor of being there when a man who has led so many to Christ through service was recognized for his commitment to students just like me. I reconnected with friends that I've missed so much. I even choked back a few tears when I walked in the auditorium where I used to perform as an SMC singer and

remembered my dad sitting only three rows back making faces at me while I was on stage. Today was beautiful and filling and so rewarding. Tonight, as I reflect not only on my time today but at the two years I had there, I find myself even more grateful than I was before."

## » 2005

**Mrs. Diana Owens Tedder**

Diana Jamie Owens married Zachary Tedder on January 18, 2014.

## » 2006

**Ms. Alysha Marie Decken**

Ms. Decken taught at a school called Shanxi Modern Bilingual School in Shanxi, China. She taught grade two and grade five during the 2009-2010 school year. She said the Lord opened her eyes to the layers of hardness she had in her heart. He stripped it away, scale by scale, and it was incredibly painful. He plucked her out of the familiar and placed her in a country where she became ruined for the ordinary. She says she will never be the same again.

## » 2011

**Mr. Jonathan David Blanton**

Mr. Blanton graduated from USC Upstate in political science and completed his law degree (JD) in December 2015.

**Ms. Hannah Beth Gibbs**

Ms. Gibbs, after a four-year apprenticeship, sat for her North Carolina State Board of Opticians license exam in June 2015.

## » 2013

**Mr. Joshua Stephen Dacey**

Mr. Dacey graduated in May 2015 from UNCA with honors. He has been accepted into the dual Master of Arts in Public History/Master of Library and Information Science program at USC Columbia.

**Ms. Laura Lucia Morales**

Ms. Morales graduated from Converse College in May 2015 and will work for the Teach for America program for two years. Then she will attend graduate school.

**Mr. Yaroslav Radtsevich**

Mr. Radtsevich graduated in May 2015 from USC Columbia with a double major in political science and history. He is headed into the Officers Training Program for the U.S. Marine Corps and then to law school.

## » 2015

**Ms. Ivy Rebekkah Murphy**

Ms. Murphy is continuing her education at Clemson University. She is working on her teaching degree, so that she can teach biology to sixth through 12th grade in a lab setting.

Marketing Office  
Spartanburg Methodist College  
1000 Powell Mill Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29301

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #161  
SPARTANBURG, SC

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SMC ALUMNI & FRIENDS

OYSTER ROAST  AND LOW COUNTRY BOIL



## BOWENS ISLAND RESTAURANT

1870 BOWENS ISLAND ROAD  
CHARLESTON, SC 29412

FEBRUARY 24, 2017 | 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

FREE OF CHARGE (CASH BAR)



WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR  
MORE INFORMATION SOON!